

International Collaboration



DEP recently began a three-year international collaboration with the City of Copenhagen to share best practices on climate resiliency and stormwater management. Work began with a kick-off meeting at the Queens Museum and then continued with tours of a “green” playground and bioswales in Gowanus, as well as the site of future green infrastructure at NYCHA’s South Jamaica Houses in southeast Queens.

Spotlight on Safety

Environmental Health and Safety

Within DEP’s Office of Environmental, Health and Safety (OEHS), the Performance Measurement and Strategic Planning Section conducts EHS assessments at all DEP facilities and capital construction projects to identify and address any risks. The Section also:

- Ensures that DEP EHS policies and procedures are properly developed, implemented and maintained.
- Tracks key performance metrics indicators, including injury and illness rates and audit data, to identify trends and intervention initiatives

for addressing hazards and managing risks.

- Develops strategic plans for the advancement of the agency’s EHS program and the development of the audit program consistent with industry standards.

The Section works collaboratively with bureaus to address root causes by developing appropriate corrective actions that address and prevent reoccurrence. It also amplifies positive EHS practices from across the agency in order to share best practices. Please send any EHS related suggestions, concerns or inquiries to EHS@dep.nyc.gov.

At DEP, everyone is responsible for safety. If you or anyone on your team is concerned about your working conditions, it’s okay to ask your supervisor or your bureau’s EHS liaison how they can help. If you’ve still got questions, you can call the EHS Employee Concerns Hotline. It’s DEP’s responsibility to acknowledge and fix unsafe situations, procedures, and practices. With your help, we’ll not only get the job done, we’ll make it safer for ourselves, our coworkers, our families, and our city. CALL (800) 897-9677 OR SEND A MESSAGE THROUGH [PIPELINE](#). HELP IS ON THE WAY.

Special Guest Commissioner’s Corner

As part of our continuing effort to reduce Combined Sewer Overflows and further improve the health of our local waterways, we are undertaking a number of projects to optimize the capacity of the City’s existing wastewater system. Last week, we presented to Bronx Community Board 11 details of a \$22 million sewer upgrade project set to begin this spring that modeling shows will prevent 400 million gallons of pollution from being discharged into Westchester Creek each year. This work is similar to a \$33 million project we are beginning in Queens that will improve the health of Flushing Bay and Bowery Bay.

The subsurface work for this project will take place at two key junction points within the sewer system in the Bronx. Construction will include raising and lengthening the weirs which direct the wastewater to the Hunts Point Wastewater Treatment Plant, and it is anticipated that the work will be completed by the end of 2019.

Throughout the roughly 7,500 miles of sewers located under the streets of New York City are numerous regulators, or junction points, where wastewater is either directed to a wastewater treatment plant or sent directly to a nearby water body. During dry weather, all the wastewater produced in the city, about 1.3 billion gallons daily, on average, gets cleaned at wastewater treatment plants. However, during heavy rain storms, the amount of stormwater entering the combined sewers can exceed the capacity of the system and, in order to avoid backups into homes and businesses, the excess flows over weirs in the regulators and gets diverted to a local water body.

This project will upgrade two of the key regulators located within the roughly 16,000-acre Hunts Point drainage area. The subsurface work will include relocating some utilities, expanding the regulator chamber areas, rais-



John Petito, DEP’s Acting Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment, is a guest commentator this week.

ing and lengthening the weirs to direct more wastewater to the Hunts Point Wastewater Treatment Plant, and any necessary structural repairs. The project is one component of an agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to improve harbor water quality throughout New York City.

The two regulators slated for upgrades are located at:

- Morris Park Avenue and Eastchester Road
- Eastchester Road north of Waters Place

I’d like to thank all the staff in the Bureaus of Engineering, Design and Construction and Wastewater Treatment for their work on this project. To learn more [click here](#).



Out of the Archives



Mule power is used to transport a cartful of muck (excavated rock) to a shaft for removal during construction of City Water Tunnel No. 1 in the Bronx. March 25, 1913.

Save the Date!

As part of the DEP Experience Brown Bag Luncheon, DEP employees are invited to learn about the many free benefits of IDNYC on Thursday, March 31, in the Rego Center Community Room. Please plan to join us, and don't forget to bring your lunch! The Rego Center Community Room is located on 97th Street, just off of Horace Harding Expressway and next to the ALDI Food Market. More information can be found [here](#).

In the News

DEP OUTREACH WORKERS POUND THE PAVEMENT IN SOUTHEAST QUEENS

The City's Department of Environmental Protection is pounding the pavement to educate residents in Southeast Queens on ways to properly dispose of cooking oil. View the NY1 story [here](#)

DESPITE SCANT SNOWPACK, RAIN KEEPS NORTHEAST WATER LEVELS UP

Read the Associated Press story [here](#)

HONOR FOR GUARDS WHO FOUND MISSING MAN

FJC Security employees assigned by the Department of Environmental Protection to LeFrak City—were walking to their post when they came across a disoriented, upset man. Read the Queens Chronicle story [here](#)

POMPANO TO TRANSFORM SLUDGE TANKER INTO A DIVE REEF THAT LOOKS LIKE CASINO

Pompano Beach is betting divers will like its newest artificial reef—a New York City sludge tanker staged to look like a casino. Read the Sun-Sentinel story [here](#)

Kudos Corner



Since 2013, DEP has been a part of the Demand Response Program (DRP), an initiative which aims to improve the reliability of the city's electric grid. Wastewater treatment plants consume a tremendous amount of electricity and by strategically reducing their energy usage during peak hours, the Bureau of Wastewater Treatment helps to prevent brownouts and blackouts. In addition, by avoiding the use of additional power plant resources, which typically burn dirtier fuel, DRP helps to improve air quality. To date, it is estimated that DEP's efforts have avoided approximately 80 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions. Pictured are **Tami Lin** (second from left), **Howard Robinson** (third from left), **Zainool Ali** (center), **Keith Cataldo** (third from right) and **Mikael Amar** (second from right).

Welcome Aboard!



Yesterday 22 new employees attended orientation and received an overview of the department from Deputy Commissioner for Organizational Development **Diana Jones Ritter** and Deputy Director for Human Resources Management **Herb Roth**. We hope everyone will join us in welcoming them to DEP!

Tracey Cornish with ACCO; **Edward Mercado** with BCS; **Sahakul Giri** and **Gregory Jo** with BEC; **Kevin Hardiman** with BLA; **Lance Du Bois**, **Jerry Mead** and **Sandra Shaddock** with BWS; **Rozina Ashraf**, **Anthony Colasurdo**, **Souleymane Dombia**, **Laurie Nelson**, **Ikenna Nwaghanata** and **Shaun Persaud** with BWSO; **Rizwan Ahmed** and **Walter Johnson** with BWT; **Erica Beaton**, **Che Flowers** and **Viswanath Ravindra** with CDBG; **Tarelle Hardy** with OD&HR; **Rigsang Rigsang** with OIT; and **Edward Robins** with Executive/FDC.

We welcome your feedback! To submit an announcement or suggestion, please email us at: newsletter@dep.nyc.gov.